

junction with the Superintendents' Society, federate to make a National Council, and the National Councils are eligible for affiliation with the International Council of Nurses. Thus, through gradual delegation we provide that every graduate nurse becomes articulate in this International Council of Nurses. We have, in short, secured to our members professional suffrage, and order will thus be evolved out of chaos.

And yet in making our Council mechanically perfect, let us remember that the vital force is of the spirit, and not of the letter of the law. In a Society which would be world-wide, which would include members of every race and creed, we must, while maintaining inviolate certain broad general principles which form our common bond of union, permit, nay foster, individuality in detail; authorising each country to apply these principles in a manner best suited to its own needs. In like manner every National Council will do well to encourage and develop the individuality of its members, for only so shall we utilise to the full the correlation of our forces, and make our Council a progressive power for good. Diversity of opinion is the very salt of life, and we shall do well to encourage rather than deprecate its expression.

The task to which we must first devote all our energies, is the building up of National Councils of Nurses in every land. Let it be a labour of love. Ruskin says "it is useless to put your heads together, if you can't put your hearts together. Shoulder to shoulder, right hand to right hand, among yourselves with no wrong hand to anybody else, and you'll win the world yet."

Into these Councils should be gathered, through various associations for mutual help and professional progress, every individual graduate nurse, and the chief work in European countries for many years to come, will be the education of these graduates, in the immensity of human responsibility, which includes their duty towards their neighbour, other than their patient, and their duty to the State. All worthy progress of women and their work must spring from this sense of corporate existence, and reverence for political rights; associations of women to be of any real value in the body politic must comprise mind as well as matter. We have experience that associated masses of women, devoid of the innate vigour of conscience, fall an easy prey to the unscrupulous, and retard rather than promote the intellectual advancement of their sex. Realise then the patience, the singleness of purpose, the fine courage, required by those who would sow the seed of high endeavour in the fallow fields of the nursing world. Indeed, it is a stupendous pro-

ject, and will need the aid of hope, faith, and charity unbounded.

The inspiration is ours, let the effort be forthcoming, and order must result. "What the child admired, the youth endeavoured, and the man acquired."

National Councils of sentient beings alone can form an International Council of any worth; awaken and cultivate the senses of each individual graduate nurse, and let the result be never so slow, it will be sure, a weighty International Council of Nurses must Be.

Hope is of the valley; Effort stands

Upon the mountain top, facing the sun;

Hope dreams of dreams made true, and great deeds done;

Effort goes forth, with toiling feet and hands,

To attain the far off sky-touched table lands

Of great desire; and, till the end is won,

Looks not below, where the long strife begun

In pleasant fields, met torrents, rocks and sands.

Hope; but when Hope bids look within her glass,

And shows the wondrous things which may befall,

Wait not for destiny, wait not at all;

This leads to failure's dark and dim morass;

Sound thou to all thy powers a trumpet call,

And, staff in hand, strive up the mountain pass.

Miss Dock then presented a report of the work accomplished since the last meeting, and announced that, acting upon Clause 4 of Article II of the Constitution, the following ladies had consented to act as Hon. Vice-Presidents, until such time as a National Council shall be fully organised, and eligible for membership in the International Council: Miss Isla Stewart, for Great Britain and Ireland; Miss S. B. McGahey, for Federated Australia; Miss F. Keith Payne, for New Zealand; Fraulein Hedwig von Schlichting, for Germany; Mej. L. Kruysse, for Holland. Miss Agnes Snively presented a most satisfactory Financial Statement, both of which reports were directed to be entered on the minutes and printed in the Transactions.

The President announced that Reports on the present condition of Nursing Education and Training, and Nurses' Organizations had been received, but, as they were, in many instances, lengthy papers, full of most valuable information, the Secretary had made short extracts from the majority, which she would place before the meeting; the papers would then be incorporated in full in the Transactions.

Miss Dock then read extracts from the following reports:—

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| United States | Miss L. L. Dock |
| Great Brit. and Ireland | Mrs. Bedford Fenwick |
| Canada | Miss Snively |
| Australia | Miss McGahey |
| New Zealand | Mrs. Neill |
| Tasmania | Miss Milne |

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